

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-101. (Cancelled)

102. (Currently Amended) A high temperature food processing apparatus configured to process a food product, the apparatus comprising:

a heating zone configured to process the food item; and

a belt configured to move the food product through the heating zone, the belt comprising,

a reinforcement material having a first face and a second face;

a coating disposed over the first face;

a first plurality of flights raised above the first face of the reinforcement material; and

a second plurality of flights raised above the second face of the reinforcement material;

wherein the belt is configured to withstand the temperatures of the heating zone; and

wherein the belt and a heating element of the heating zone are arranged such that the belt contacts a first face of food items and the heating zone toasts a second face of food items; and

wherein the heating element of the heating zone is configured to contact the second face of food items.

103. (Cancelled)

104. (Previously Presented) The high temperature food processing apparatus of claim 102, further comprising a second belt comprising at least one of a chain belt, wire belt, and metal belt, wherein the belt is configured to be coupled to the second belt.

105. (Previously Presented) The high temperature food processing apparatus of claim 102, further comprising a second belt, wherein the belt is mounted such that the second plurality of flights contact the second belt and the first plurality of flights contact food items.

106. (Cancelled)

107. (Cancelled)

108. (Previously Presented) The high temperature food processing apparatus of claim 102, wherein longitudinal directions of flights raised above the first face and the second face are transverse to a longitudinal direction of the belt.

109. (Previously Presented) The high temperature food processing apparatus of claim 102, wherein flights raised above one face are straight and parallel to each other and the longitudinal direction of the flights is transverse to the longitudinal direction of the conveyor belt, and ribs raised above another face are arranged in a repeating pattern that is at least one of undulating and sinusoidal.

110. (Previously Presented) The high temperature food processing apparatus of claim 102, wherein the first plurality of flights have a density of at least one rib per linear foot of the belt.

111. (Previously Presented) The high temperature food processing apparatus of claim 102, wherein the first plurality of flights form a pattern of undulating flights.

112. (Previously Presented) The high temperature food processing apparatus of claim 102, wherein the first plurality of flights have a height of up to about 0.050 inches.

113. (Previously Presented) The high temperature food processing apparatus of claim 112, wherein the first plurality of flights have a height of at least about 0.020 inches.

114. (Previously Presented) The high temperature food processing apparatus of claim 102, wherein the first plurality of flights have a height of at least about 0.020 inches.

115. (Previously Presented) The high temperature food processing apparatus of claim 102, wherein the belt has a structure that is continuous.

116. (Previously Presented) The high temperature food processing apparatus of claim 115, wherein the contact toaster comprises a second belt coupled to the belt.

117. (Previously Presented) The high temperature food processing apparatus of claim 116, wherein the second belt has an open structure.

118. (Previously Presented) The high temperature food processing apparatus of claim 102, wherein the apparatus is a vertically oriented toasting machine.

119. (Previously Presented) The high temperature food processing apparatus of claim 102, wherein the belt is configured to move food products through the heating zone such that food products will slide along a stationary toasting surface such that the food product is toasted as it slides.

120. (Previously Presented) The high temperature food processing apparatus of claim 102, wherein the apparatus is configured to toast items in a continuous toasting operation.

121. (New) A high temperature food processing apparatus configured to process a food product, the apparatus comprising:

a heating zone configured to toast food items; and

a belt configured to move the food product through the heating zone, the belt comprising,

a reinforcement material having a first face and a second face;

a coating disposed over the first face; and

a first plurality of flights raised above the first face of the reinforcement material;

wherein the belt and a heating element of the heating zone are arranged such that the belt contacts a first face of food items and the heating zone toasts a second face of food items, a heating element of the heating zone being configured to contact the second face of food items.

122. (New) The high temperature food processing apparatus of claim 121, wherein the apparatus is a vertically oriented toasting machine.

123. (New) The high temperature food processing apparatus of claim 121, wherein the belt is configured to move food products through the heating zone such that food products will slide along a stationary toasting surface such that the food product is toasted as it slides.

124. (New) The high temperature food processing apparatus of claim 102, wherein flights raised above one face of the belt are straight and parallel to each other and the longitudinal direction of the flights is transverse to the longitudinal direction of the conveyor belt, and flights raised above another face of the belt are arranged in a repeating pattern that is at least one of undulating and sinusoidal.

125. (New) The high temperature food processing apparatus of claim 121, wherein the first plurality of flights have a height of up to about 0.050 inches.

126. (New) The high temperature food processing apparatus of claim 125, wherein the first plurality of flights have a height of at least about 0.020 inches.

127. (New) The high temperature food processing apparatus of claim 121, wherein the first plurality of flights have a height of at least about 0.020 inches.

128. (New) A high temperature food processing apparatus configured to process a food product, the apparatus comprising:

a heating zone configured to toast food items; and

a belt configured to move the food product through the heating zone, the belt comprising,

a reinforcement material having a first face and a second face;

a coating disposed over the first face;

a first plurality of flights raised above the first face of the reinforcement material; and

wherein the belt and a heating element of the heating zone are arranged such that the belt contacts a first face of food items and the heating zone toasts a second face of food items; and

wherein the belt is configured to move food products through the heating zone such that food products will slide along a stationary toasting surface such that the food product is toasted as it slides.

129. (New) The high temperature food processing apparatus of claim 128, wherein the belt further comprises a second plurality of flights raised above the second face of the reinforcement material.

130. (New) The high temperature food processing apparatus of claim 128, wherein the apparatus is a vertically oriented toasting machine.

131. (New) The high temperature food processing apparatus of claim 128, wherein the apparatus is configured to toast buns.

132. (New) The high temperature food processing apparatus of claim 129, wherein flights raised above one face of the belt are straight and parallel to each other and the longitudinal direction of the flights is transverse to the longitudinal direction of the conveyor belt, and flights raised above another face of the belt are arranged in a repeating pattern that is at least one of undulating and sinusoidal.

133. (New) The high temperature food processing apparatus of claim 128, wherein the first plurality of flights have a height of up to about 0.050 inches.

134. (New) The high temperature food processing apparatus of claim 133, wherein the first plurality of flights have a height of at least about 0.020 inches.

135. (New) The high temperature food processing apparatus of claim 128, wherein the first plurality of flights have a height of at least about 0.020 inches.